

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1633 – SB 1620

January 28, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes operation of a personal watercraft not equipped with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, if such switch was not installed at the time of production by the manufacturer.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 69-9-503, any person operating a personal watercraft on the waters of the state is required to have a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch attached to the person or personal flotation device while operating the watercraft.
- A violation of this requirement constitutes a Class C misdemeanor offense, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$50.
- According to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, there have been less than 50 citations issued statewide for violations of this requirement in the past 10 years. However, the majority of these citations have been issued to persons not utilizing the lanyard-type cutoff switch that is available for use on the applicable personal watercraft.
- The overwhelming majority of personal watercrafts manufactured now are equipped with lanyard-type cutoff switches as standard operating equipment. It is assumed there are relatively few personal watercrafts that were manufactured at a time when lanyard-type cutoff switches were not part of standard operating equipment in operation today.
- It is estimated there are few, if any, citations issued currently for such violations. As a result, any decrease in citation fee revenue is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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